

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed August 17, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for One Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to December 17, 2007. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on October 5, 2001; February 12, 2004; June 24, 2005 (resubmitted July 25, 2005); and August 15, 2005.

A further Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18, 37-54, 73-90, 109-126 and 145-188 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 10, 37, 73, 82, 109, 118, 145, 152, 159, 166 and 185-188 are independent. Claims 1, 10, 37, 46, 73, 82, 109, 118, 145, 152, 159, 166 and 185-188 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 3 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-9, 37-45, 145-151, 173 and 181 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,953,003 to Kwon, U.S. Patent No. 6,121,760 to Marshall and U.S. Patent No. 5,850,204 Maekawa. The Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP §§ 2142-2143.01, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some reason, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the

prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some reason to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. "The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art." In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The prior art, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims, as amended. Independent claims 1, 37 and 145 have been amended to recite a level shifter (included in a source (or gate) signal line driving circuit) for converting a voltage amplitude of input signals, and a current source configured such that supplying a current to the level shifter is controlled based on a pulse from a shift register. These features are supported in the present specification, for example, by page 16, line 23, to page 17, line 13. The claims have also been amended to remove features which are not believed to be critical to the patentability of the claims. For the reasons provided below, Kwon, Marshall and Maekawa, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-referenced features of the present invention.

The Official Action concedes that "Kwon fails to specifically teach wherein only when said shift register serially outputs the pulses, said current source supplies the current and said level shifter is operated" (page 3, Paper No. 20070814), and asserts that "Marshall et al. teaches a power regulator wherein a shift register, having a plurality of stages, or units (see column 2, lines 9-15), operates with respect to clock pulses from a clock signal in which the clock signals are generated in association with the power control pulses" (Id.). In other words, power is only provided when the shift register outputs pulses.

As noted above, claims 1, 37 and 145 have been amended to recite the features of a level shifter (included in a source (or gate) signal line driving circuit) for converting a voltage amplitude of input signals, and a current source configured such that supplying a current to the level shifter is controlled based on a pulse from a shift register. In other words, it is not that the current (to the shift register) is only provided when the shift register outputs pulses, but supplying the current (from the current source to the level shifter) is controlled based on output pulses from the shift register. Since Marshall is directed to a device where power is only provided when the shift register outputs pulses, Marshall does not teach or suggest the above-referenced features.

Also, Kwon and Maekawa do not cure the deficiencies in Marshall. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Kwon, Marshall and Maekawa, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a level shifter (included in a source (or gate) signal line driving circuit) for converting a voltage amplitude of input signals, and a current source configured such that supplying a current to the level shifter is controlled based on a pulse from a shift register.

Since Kwon, Marshall and Maekawa do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

Paragraph 4 of the Official Action rejects claims 10-18, 46-54, 73-90, 109-126, 152-172, 174, 176-180 and 182-188 as obvious based on the combination of Kwon, U.S. Patent No. 5,574,475 to Callahan, Marshall and Maekawa. The Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

Independent claims 10, 46, 73, 82, 109, 118, 152, 159, 166 and 185-188 have been amended to recite features similar to that recited in claims 1, 37 and 145, and are also supported in the present specification, for example, by page 16, line 23, to page 17, line 13.

Please incorporate the arguments above with respect to the deficiencies in Kwon, Marshall and Maekawa. Callahan does not cure the deficiencies in Kwon, Marshall and Maekawa. The Official Action relies on Callahan to allegedly teach "a source signal line driving circuit (14) composed of signal drivers 1-11 and a gate line driver (16) composed of a plurality of [gate] drivers (see Figure 2) ... the usage of a decoder (30) included in the source signal line driving circuit for outputting pulses [in] accordance with input signals (see column 5, lines 39-50)" (page 7, Paper No. 20070814).

However, Kwon, Callahan, Marshall and Maekawa, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the following features or that Kwon, Marshall and Maekawa should be modified to include any of the following features: a level shifter (included in a source (or gate) signal line driving circuit) for converting a voltage amplitude of input signals, and a current source configured such that supplying a current to the level shifter is controlled based on a pulse from a shift register.

Since Kwon, Callahan, Marshall and Maekawa do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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